

Special Occasion

Big Thanks to Dad

Best Use

A special mealtime activity immediately before dessert.

Nutritional Value

Honor Dad and give him appreciation for all he does.

Advance Preparation

Hold a “Dad Awards” ceremony as a way for your family to celebrate Dad and his love for your family. Included on this card are two ideas: one to be used with younger kids, and the other can be used for children of all ages (including grown children).

- Secretly interview your kids to determine award categories: What is your favorite thing you like to do with Dad? What is your favorite thing that dad does for you? What is Dad THE BEST at?
- Turn their answers into 4-5 award categories, for example: “Best griller”, “Best giver of hugs”, “Bravest”, etc.
- Write each category on a separate note card & put them in separate envelopes.
- Go shopping for simple (yet meaningful) “awards”. Some ideas:
 - Write “Best Dad in the Universe” on a little trophy or sign.
 - Make and decorate a cardboard king crown for Dad to wear.
 - Have the kids create a special award certificate (or drawings)
 - His favorite ice cream or dessert (perhaps pick-up from a restaurant)

Hide everything so the award ceremony will be a surprise!

Serve It Up

After dinner, begin the awards by having each child read the name of the award, announcing the winner, “And the winner is . . .” (of course, Dad wins in every category!), and presenting him with one of the prizes. With every award, the “audience” responds with cheering, standing ovations, and thunderous applause. The final award will be his favorite dessert, served to him as you would a king. Everyone else joins him with his or her own dessert.

Prayer

Everyone put a hand on Dad while praying, repeating each phrase one at a time.

“Lord, thank you for (Dad). He is a wonderful gift from You to us. He works so hard for our family, and loves us so much. He is a great example of a person who loves You and follows You. Draw him even closer to Yourself and bless him deeply. Help us as a family to honor him everyday. Amen.”

TO ADAPT FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Advance Preparation

Make plans for your family to take Dad to his favorite restaurant. Encourage each child to write something to be shared at the table when you take him out (handwritten notes are best). Ideas for topics: A lesson Dad taught me that I will never forget, 25 things I love about Dad, My favorite memory of time with Dad, How God has used my Dad to bless my life, etc.

Serve it Up

During the meal, take turns reading what each of you have written, making time in between readings for laughter, tears, and even comments from others that “echo” what each person shares. At the end of the meal, present Dad with each note of appreciation for him to keep.

Prayer

Have someone close the time in prayer, thanking the Lord for blessing your lives through Dad, and asking God to continue to bless his life with a closer walk with the Lord, good health, and a constant awareness of his children’s love. Ask God to help you to honor him everyday.